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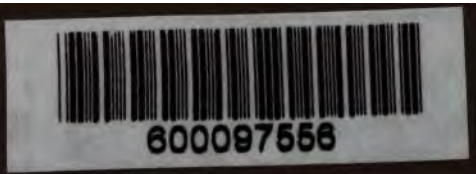
Te Deum.

138. i.
420.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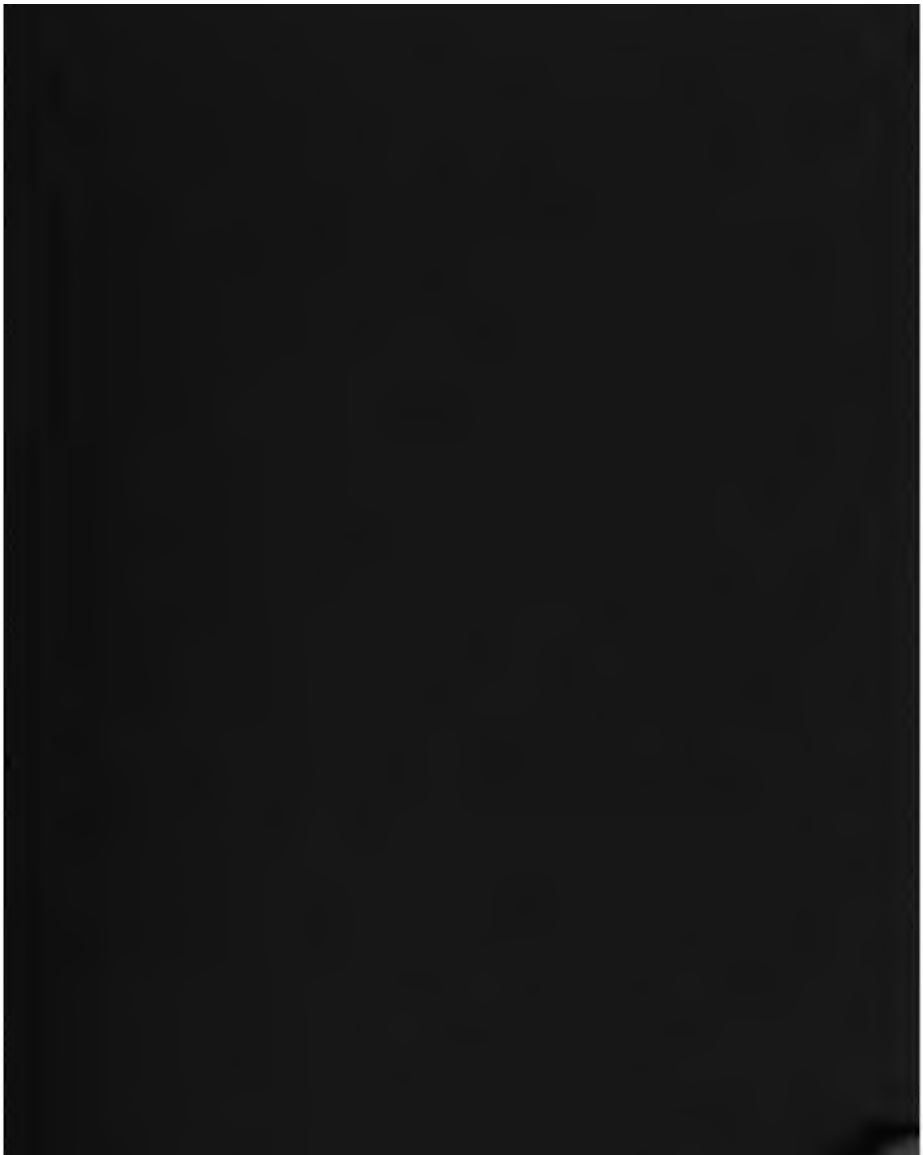

Te Deum.

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Introduction.

THE Psalm or Sacred Song of the *Te Deum* has a legendary history attached to it of poetical interest, besides other literary relationships which increase its value to the Church Militant in all ages. Its opening strain is a glorious burst, or out-pouring of Confession of Almighty Majesty founded upon *conviction*, "We praise thee, O God: we *acknowledge* thee to be the Lord," as

if the overwhelming truth had conquered for itself all doubt. It then proceeds with such a sublime eloquence of Praise as puts to silence all human eulogy. Then with the most touching allusions to the personal history of our Lord, from His incarnation to His crucifixion, closing the painfullest record with the most glorious exaltation of the Saviour at the right hand of the Father Everlasting, every worshipper is compelled to feel how *deeply* his *own* spiritual and eternal interests are involved in the subjects of this hymn, even to its last petitioning words.

It was natural to believe, or to imagine, that some great occasion in the progress of the Early Church must have called forth so grand an inspiration. Hence, no doubt, the tradition that it was conjointly the composition of St. Ambrose and St. Augustine, and that it was sung by *both*

alternately at the baptism of the last-named illustrious convert. We cannot, we think, do better than transcribe for general information the following passage from the "Interleaved Prayer Book" in connection with this subject:—

"The Psalm *Te Deum*, as it was called in the old English Offices, received the name of 'The Song of Ambrose and Augustine' from the tradition that it was composed and sung by the two alternately at the baptism of Augustine by Ambrose. The actual author is uncertain. It has been ascribed to Ambrose and Augustine, to Ambrose alone, to Hilary of Poitiers, *circa* 350. The first extant allusion to its existence is found in the Rule of Cæsarius, Bishop of Arles, who lived in the fifth century, and in that of his successor Aurelian. In the opinion of Palmer it is a composition of the Gallican Church,

perhaps by a Monk of Lerins, or possibly by Hilary of Arles, A.D. 440, in the Rule of Cæsarius. In the Sarum Breviary it was appointed to be used at Matins throughout the year, except during Advent and during the period from Septuagesima till Easter." "In 1549 it was to be used throughout the year except in Lent, when *Benedicite* was substituted. In 1552 this exception was removed, and *Te Deum* or *Benedicite*, at the discretion of the Minister, throughout the year might be used."—*Vide* "PRAYER-BOOK INTERLEAVED," by Revs. Campion and Beaumont, Rivingtons, London, &c. &c.

S. E. MILES.

"We praise Thee, O God."

Te Deum.

We praise thee, O God:
we acknowledge thee
to be the Lord.

All the earth
doth worship thee:
the Father everlasting.

Te Deum.

To thee

all Angels cry aloud:

the Heavens,

and all the Powers therein.

To thee

Cherubin, and Seraphin:

continually do cry.

"All the earth doth worship Thee: the Father everlasting."

Te Deum.

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth

are full of the Majesty:

of thy Glory.

The glorious company

of the Apostles:

praise thee.

Te Deum.

The goodly fellowship

of the Prophets:

praise thee.

The noble army

of Martyrs:

praise thee.

The holy Church

throughout all the world:

doth acknowledge thee;

"To Thee all Angels cry aloud."

Te Deum.

The Father :

of an infinite Majesty ;

Thine honourable, true :

and only Son ;

Also the Holy Ghost :

the Comforter.

Te Deum.

Thou art
the King of Glory :
O Christ.

Thou art
the everlasting Son :
of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee
to deliver man :
thou didst not abhor
the Virgin's womb.

"The noble army of Martyrs: praise thee."

When thou hadst overcome
the sharpness of death:
thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven
to all believers.

Thou sittest
at the right hand of God:
in the Glory of the Father.

Te Deum.

We believe
that thou shalt come:
to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee,
help thy servants:
whom thou hast redeemed
with thy precious blood.

"Thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers."

Make them to be numbered

with thy Saints:

in glory everlasting.

O Lord,

save thy people:

and bless thine heritage.

Govern them:

and lift them up for ever.

Day by day:

we magnify thee:

And we

worship thy Name:

ever world without end.

"In thee, O Lord, have I trusted: let me never be confounded."

Vouchsafe, O Lord:

to keep us this day

without sin.

O Lord,

have mercy upon us:

have mercy upon us.

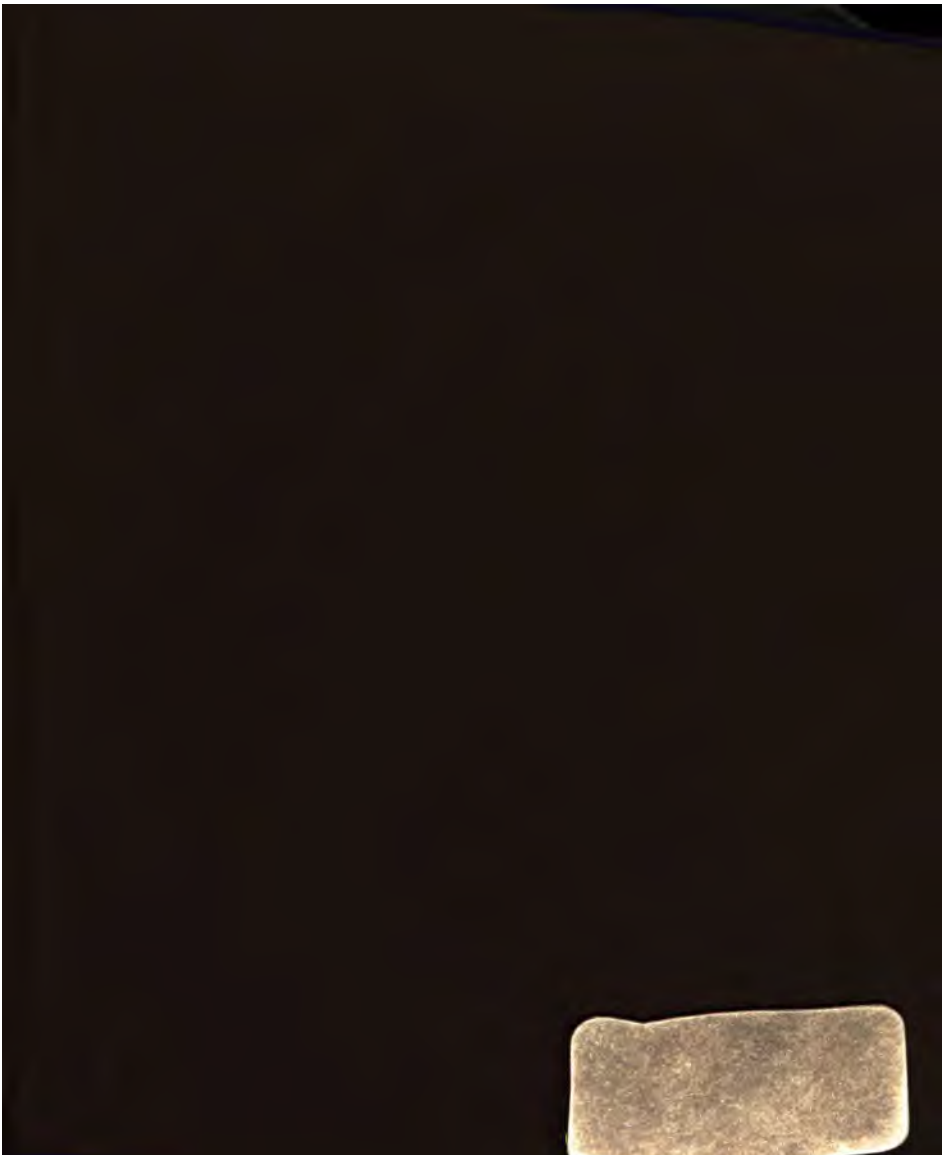
Te Deum.

O Lord,

let thy mercy lighten upon us:

as our trust is in thee.

O Lord,

in thee have I trusted:

let me never be confounded.